



News to Use June 2006

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Adult education highlighted by Louisville newspaper

A Louisville *Courier-Journal* column by Michael B. Gritton, executive director, Kentuckiana Works, Louisville, sang the praises of adult education in Kentucky. Gritton wrote, "The tremendous strength of our adult education programs – combined with the growing strength of our K-12 school systems – is helping us close the 'job skills gap' with competing cities. Adult education programs are critical in our effort to raise our educational attainment levels and thereby improve our region's economic competitiveness." Congratulations to all adult educators! Read the column on the newspaper's [Web site](#).

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Policy changes

In addition to several upcoming policy changes reported in the May 2006 edition of *News to Use*, KYAE plans the following policy changes for the 2006-07 fiscal year:

- **Family Literacy** – Based on feedback received from adult educators throughout this fiscal year and an April 17, 2006, provider focus group, KYAE is revising the Family Literacy Program Quality Indicators. To be eliminated are the requirements for:
 - Contact with the child's teacher or guidance counselor upon enrollment.
 - Assessments for preschool children.
 - Tracking of school-age attendance and progress.

Children's progress will be tracked by a checklist form to be provided to local providers by KYAE. KYAE is in discussions with the Kentucky Department of Education to obtain the children's progress through a state-level data match. A draft of the revised indicators is available by [clicking here](#).

- **GED** – At the suggestion of adult educators, KYAE will allow local programs to use state incentive funding for GED recognition ceremonies. Federal funds may not be used for ceremonies.
- **Personnel** – "Co-op student/intern" will be added as a recognized title. Job duties will include general clerical responsibilities. Co-op students/interns may not be involved in data entry. The new title was recommended by an adult educator.
- **Personnel** – A statement will be added to clarify that all new county program fiscal agents must ensure that all employees meet the minimum requirements for each title. Please note: Grandfathering status applies to currently grandfathered employees in the position for which they were initially hired unless there is a change in the county's fiscal agent. (In July 1998, KYAE implemented a requirement for instructors and program directors to have a minimum of a bachelor's degree but allowed non-degreed employees to be "grandfathered" into the system.) KYAE reserves the right to make further revisions to minimum requirements for KYAE-funded personnel.

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WIA incentive funding

Kentucky has been notified that the Commonwealth will receive \$716,581 in Workforce Investment Act (WIA) incentive funding. States qualify for WIA incentive funding by exceeding performance levels for the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (Kentucky Adult Education), WIA Title I (Office of

Employment and Training) and the Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act (Kentucky Community and Technical College System and the Office of Career and Technical Education).

KYAE applauds adult educators across the Commonwealth for their hard work that has led to a fourth year of federal incentive funding. KYAE is working with partner agencies to develop a plan for the expenditure of funds.

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NRS performance measures

KYAE has received preliminary approval of 2006-07 NRS performance measures and is waiting for official notification from the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), U.S. Department of Education. The measures are available on KYAE's [Web site](#). Please note that these measures are not official or final until OVAE provides notification of approval.

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Even Start transitions

Due to federal funding cuts, 16 Kentucky counties will phase out their Even Start programs in the next few weeks; another 16 Even Start programs will remain operational. KYAE is asking adult education programs in phase-out counties to contact the Even Start director to offer assistance in transitioning families eligible for KYAE services. Contact information is available at [Even Start](#). The affected counties are Boyd, Bell, Breathitt, Bullitt, Clinton, Cumberland, Daviess, Edmonson, Fulton, Hardin, Jefferson, Kenton, Knox, Owsley, Rowan and Warren.

In addition, KYAE programs may be able to make use of equipment and materials acquired by the Even Start programs under the federal grant. For more information, contact the local Even Start director or Bill Buchanan at the Kentucky Department of Education at (502) 564-7056 or Bill.Buchanan@ky.gov.

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AERIN update

Earlier this year, adult educators from 72 counties responded to an AERIN survey with suggestions on reports, functionalities and enhancements for the data collection system. KYAE plans to enhance reporting features and to

schedule a series of AERIN focus groups to discuss further improvements. Other changes will be discussed in greater detail during summer 2006 AERIN training.

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Register for KAELI

Registration for the 2006-07 Kentucky Adult Education Literacy Institute (KAELI) is underway. [Download](#) the application form, important information and supervisor statement of support form. E-mail the completed forms to Toni-Ann Mills at tamill2@uky.edu . Questions can be directed to Toni-Ann by e-mail or phone at (859) 257-6127.

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Online PD courses

Due to declining enrollment and a need for updating, the following online adult educator courses will be migrated to the "KYVAE Resource Group" as of July 1, 2006: PLATO 200, LINK 200, WIN 200 and WK 200. The courses will continue to provide an online source of information on PLATO, Literacy Link, WIN and WorkKeys but will not lead to PDUs. More information about how to access the information will be provided in the July issue of *News to Use*.

Face-to-face training on PLATO, Literacy Link and WIN will continue to be scheduled throughout the year and will lead to one PDU per session. KYAE trainers can provide information to adult educators on how to earn additional PDUs by using KYVAE software with students.

For more information, contact Erika Larson at (502) 573-5114, ext. 104, or Erika.Larson@ky.gov .

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KYVAE year-end clean-up

By **July 31, 2006**, providers must submit a list of all active PLATO and WIN students. KYAE needs their user IDs and names to identify them correctly in the system. Active students on the list will not be deleted from KYAE servers. Forward your PLATO list to Dave.Henderson@ky.gov. The WIN list should be sent to Erika.Larson@ky.gov . If you have questions, contact Erika at (502) 573-5114 x104.

Removing inactive students from the PLATO and WIN servers is vital to accurately counting the KYVAE students enrolled this fiscal year. All PLATO and WIN students who did not log-in between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006, will be deleted from the PLATO and WIN server. Students who are removed can register again at any time if they want to use KYAE's online products.

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KYAE ESL Summer Workshop

KYAE will host an ESL Summer Workshop from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. August 25, 2006, at the KCTCS Headquarters in Versailles.

The morning session will focus on developing a learning station environment to meet the needs of multi-level ESL students. Sara Gutting, an adult education coordinator in Indianapolis, has presented a popular GED Learning Stations workshop at KYAE conferences. This workshop will be adapted to focus on ESL students. The presentation will include ready-to-use lessons and hands-on activities in reading, writing, goal setting, learner evaluation, listening and speaking.

An open forum in the afternoon will allow adult educators to share favorite ESL lesson plans, experiences and best practices. During this informal session, participants should bring 35 copies of their favorite ESL lesson plans and finger food to share.

The ESL Summer Workshop is recommended for new and experienced ESL instructors. One PDU can be earned for attending this workshop. Attendance is limited to 35 participants. For more information, contact Joyce Bullock at (502) 573-5114, ext. 118, or Joyce.Bullock@ky.gov.

In addition, KYAE is offering the following ESL PD opportunities:

- CASAS follow-up training with CASAS-certified trainer Celeste Goodwin of Jefferson County Adult Education; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., June 30, 2006; Ahrens Learning Center, Louisville; one PDU.
- CASAS Implementation Training with CASAS-certified trainers Art Dietz and Celeste Goodwin; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., July 21, 2006; KCTCS Training Rooms 112 and 113, Versailles; one PDU.
- CASAS follow-up training with Celeste Goodwin; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., September 29, 2006; Ahrens Learning Center, Louisville; one PDU.
- Workplace ESL with Martha Fightmaster of KYAE, and Sugar Willey of Woodford County Adult Education; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., October 13, 2006; KCTCS Training Rooms 112 and 113, Versailles; one PDU.

- CASAS Implementation Training with CASAS-certified trainers Art Dietz and Celeste Goodwin; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., February 2, 2007; Kenton County, site to be determined; one PDU.

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BEST assessment changes

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) has announced the following upcoming changes in its Basic English Skills Test (BEST) ESL assessments:

- On October 1, 2006, CAL will launch an upgraded version of the BEST literacy skills section. This revised version, to be called BEST Literacy, will include new photos and graphics that reflect today's styles and current food, clothing and housing prices. The same administration and scoring procedures will be used.
- The BEST oral interview is scheduled to be retired on September 30, 2006. It has been replaced by BEST Plus.

For more information, contact Joyce Bullock at (502) 573-5114, ext. 118, or Joyce.Bullock@ky.gov.

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New fax line for KEC applications

All KEC applications should be faxed to a new number - (866) 237-3094. Applications submitted to KCTCS within the last 30 days should be resent to the new number. The KCTCS contact person is Vicki Penix-Davis; she can be reached at (859) 256-3335 or Vicki.penix-davis@kctcs.edu.

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Valuable links

NCSALL research

The latest National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL) research report, *Learners' Engagement in Adult Literacy Education*, is available at [NCSALL's Web site](#). Learner engagement is defined as "mental effort focused on learning" and is a precondition to learning progress. This qualitative study looks at how learning context shapes engagement.

Reading and assessment resources

The National Institute for Literacy has launched a new [Web page](#). Check out new resources and publications on [teaching adults to read](#) and [assessment strategies and reading profiles](#).

Gates Foundation research

Read "[The Silent Epidemic – Perspectives of High School Dropouts](#)," a study funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to examine the dropout issue from the student's perspective.

Health literacy

For information on integrating health and literacy education, engaging adult learners and building connections between literacy programs and local health services, see the health literacy information on the [Eastern LINCS Web site](#).

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